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Good Government; Honesty in Public Office; Equal Justice to All--Special Privileges to None.

## GOVERNOR GILCHRIST MAKES SPEECH

Before National Prison Association at Spokane, Washington, Aug. 18.

Spokane, Wash.--Before the National Prison Association Governor Gilchrist of Florida, delivered the speech today: Mr. President and Members of the National Prison Association of the United States:

As governor and chairman of the Board of State Institutions of the State of Florida, which board has full supervision of the prison affairs of the State, and as chairman of the Board of Pardons, it becomes my privilege and pleasure to address you in reference to the prison conditions of our State.

As many of you know, Florida continues what is known as the "lease system." Our prisoners are now leased to a strong company owning many hundred thousand acres of timber lands, operating saw mills and turpentine farms. While using most of the prisoners, they sub-lease some of them to be employed in phosphate mines and on turpentine farms, and in saw mills. This company owns pine lands, saw mills and turpentine farms throughout the State. Should it become advisable, their own business is of sufficient proportions to employ all the convicts leased by them. They will, however, probably sub-lease some of them. I can give you no more authoritative idea of the restrictions imposed upon the lessee, and of the lease system itself, than by quoting from the contract made with the lessee. This contract provides that the prisoners shall not "be worked or made to labor before sunrise or after sunset, nor more than ten hours on any one day, or be made to work on the Sabbath day."

"No prisoner shall be permitted to leave the stockade before sunrise and must be returned by sundown; provided, that the prisoner, if he so desires, may make satisfactory terms between himself and the lessee, and work overtime, the prisoner to receive compensation therefor, and the conditions to be approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture."

As a matter of fact, the prisoners are usually given certain tasks, some of which finish them easily by Friday of each week, in such cases having Saturday either to work for pay, or rest; in most cases, they all complete their work in time to have Saturday afternoon.

The contract provides that the lessee "shall furnish each and every such prisoner comfortable quarters and lodging, good and comfortable clothing, including bedding and blankets; wholesome food, and when any of them shall be sick or disabled, necessary medicine and medical attendance and proper personal care; their allowance of food and clothing, including bedding and blankets, to be prescribed by the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions of said State, from time to time." This board consists of the governor and every member of the cabinet.

"These prisoners shall be furnished with separate iron cot bedsteads," of certain prescribed dimensions. "Each bed shall have a good, clean mattress and pillow, also three pillow cases, four sheets and two pair of blankets. There shall be kept in stock at each prison camp at all times, for the use of the prisoners, not less than three suits of stripes, three suits of underclothing, including socks, two pair of shoes, one hat, two night shirts for each and every prisoner located at every prison or camp."

The lessee provides for each prison camp a physician to "examine, treat, and care for and watch over, all and each of such prisoners received and kept by them, and will secure his regular attention, examination, treatment and care of them in such manner and of such frequency and fidelity as may be satisfactory to or prescribed by the Board of Commissioners."

The lessee are required to "provide a central hospital, or hospitals," the location to be designated by the Commissioner of Agriculture, the hospital to be "fully equipped" with beds having "comfortable springs," to be thoroughly equipped with a dispensary, operating room, and all the necessary drugs, surgical implements and other equipment and supplies incident to a modern, first-class hospital.

"The lessee shall establish such rules and regulations for the conduct and management of said hospital as may be prescribed by the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions." "There shall be deducted from the amount due" by the lessee, "the time lost by each inmate of said hospital." The lessee pays "all expense of conducting and maintaining said hospital." The Commissioner of Agriculture selects a physician at the central hospital or hospitals.

The lessee "shall establish at each stockade, when practicable, water works and sewerage system for sanitary purposes, at their own expense, the Commissioner of Agriculture to decide the question of necessity." As a matter of fact, bathing facilities are established at every stockade.

At each camp a vegetable garden shall be maintained for furnishing suf-

ficient vegetables for the prisoners."

All camps "shall be built and maintained upon plans and specifications approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture and the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions." "Provision is made for securing full description of the prisoners, marks, photographs and other means."

The lessee shall enforce such regulations as may be prescribed, "for the health, humane treatment and safe custody of the prisoners." "The wardens, captains and guards shall always be subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Agriculture." "Any guard shall be removed" upon his request.

Heretofore the State has been leasing all of its prisoners including the women and the old and infirm. Upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Agriculture and the governor, the legislature of 1908, appropriated \$50,000 and directed the Board of Commissioners of State Institutions to purchase not less than 500 acres, suitable for a penitentiary and State prison farm. The Commissioners were "directed to withhold from lease all females, the aged, diseased, crippled, deformed and all other prisoners who, in the discretion of said Board are not suited to perform manual labor." This will serve as a nucleus for the State penitentiary. The number of prisoners are now handled in Florida range from 1700 to 1750. The death rate is 12.60 in 1907 to 11.30 in 1908 per thousand. "In most cases the prisoners die from the effect of diseases contracted prior to entering the State prison." This death rate is less than what it is in some insurance companies in which, of course, they pick their members. The United States census of 1900, Vol. 3, page 56, registration area United States, embracing the New England States, New York, New Jersey, Michigan and District of Columbia, the death rate is 17.8 per thousand.

Our prisoners work in the open air and in the open sun. They also enjoy conversation, and singing, and music among themselves. At night, the negroes make the camps ring with their songs. None of them are shackled. The following is the data from such other States as I have been able to secure the necessary information:

### DEATH RATE IN STATE PRISONS PER THOUSAND.

For 1907: Florida, 12.60; Louisiana, 18.50; Indiana, 16.37; Virginia, 14.46; Connecticut, none; Mississippi, 20.42; New Jersey, 9.90; South Carolina, 35.25. For 1908: Florida, 11.30; Louisiana, 18.50; Indiana, 11.68; Virginia, 13.08; Connecticut, 16.10; Mississippi, 15.07; New Jersey, 14.50; South Carolina, 22.25.

For the two years, 1907 and 1908, Tennessee, 5.72; Michigan, 7.90; Alabama, 44.45.

It might be interesting to know some of the detailed statistics as to our prisoners. During the year 1907, 1,855 were handled, 25 of whom died. There were committed during the year 445, while females, none; white males, 15; colored

females, 15; colored males, 356. Of this number, only 127 were natives of Florida; Georgia and South Carolina together furnishing 150; North Carolina, 40; Virginia, 15; Mississippi, 10. The remainder were born in various parts of the United States, and some European countries.

The various forms of stealing, manslaughter, murder, and assault to murder, represent more than one half of the commitments. Most of the commitments for manslaughter, murder and assault to murder among the negroes result from jealousy and fighting among themselves.

The employment of convicts in our State has not, so far, conflicted with the employment of free labor. At present there is not enough labor in the State necessary for the turpentine farms, phosphate mines and saw mills, the industries in which convicts are altogether employed. After the expiration of their sentence, many of the negroes seek employment in the turpentine farms and the mines and saw mills, having become more or less efficient hands in such industries. A turpentine hands makes from \$1.50 to \$2.50 per day.

We have reform school for boys and girls in which they are given a certain amount of education, and at which trades are taught them.

For one, I do not consider that the indeterminate sentence would work well in our State, especially where such a large proportion of our convicts are negroes. In such instances, it is well to have a certain sentence fixed and a certain number of months per year to be taken from their sentence on account of good behavior. In addition to this, there is always a chance of a conditional pardon. There are probably not over four or five full pardons granted a year, conditional pardons being granted on condition of continued good behavior. Such a pardon restores the right of citizenship.

We have a system of inspection by which the camps are inspected once in every one or two months. The inspectors make thorough reports, showing the condition of the camps and reporting all grievances. It is also their duty to recommend, without charge, suitable persons for pardon. In our climate, it is more or less absolutely necessary that a large body of criminals should not be buddled together in a close inclosure. At present they are divided into 41 camps, in which houses are built, surrounded by wooden palisades or walls. There are really 41 State penitentiaries. When the lease system is discontinued it will, of course, be necessary to constitute them all into one, two or more farms. Every possible effort is made to protect these unfortunate convicts from mistreatment.

In Florida, short term convicts sentenced by local courts are leased out by the County Commissioners, and the terms and conditions prescribed for their care, treatment and use, vary greatly and are very irregular. In some of the counties, reduction of time is allowed for good behavior of the con-

victs, while in others there is no such reduction. In some counties it is required that decent clothing and a small amount of money must be given to each prisoner when released, while in other counties discharged prisoners are given nothing. The State makes provisions for each of these allowances. Experience has shown that when serious wrongs are perpetrated in the treatment of county convicts, criticisms are hurled at the whole system, regardless of the successful efforts which the State and many counties are making to have the lease system operated in a careful and humane manner. Some of the newspapers are too polite to locate the responsibility for abuses which occur, to place blame where it belongs, preferring instead to bring a general indictment against the whole lease system, thereby doing gross injustice to the State and a number of the counties which have gone a long way towards perfecting said system.

### DR. GASTON DAY,

Former Tallahassee Young Man Selected as City Physician of Jacksonville.

The people of Tallahassee have learned with peculiar pleasure and satisfaction of the high honor just conferred upon Dr. Gaston Day, of Jacksonville. Early in the week Dr. Day was nominated by the Board of Bond Trustees and confirmed by the City Council of Jacksonville to fill the very important and responsible position of City Physician. This is indeed a splendid tribute to so young a physician, but Tallahassee's verdict is that Jacksonville has made a most excellent selection of a guardian for her health interests.

A few years ago Dr. Day, then a youth, was a resident of Tallahassee, while his distinguished father, Hon. Henry E. Day, was rendering valuable service to the State as a member of the Florida Railroad Commission. Gaston is remembered here, as are his parents, most pleasantly. As a boy and young man his talent and refinement and high character were strongly impressed on all who knew him. He has since completed the very thorough course in medicine at the John Hopkins University, Baltimore, and settled in Jacksonville to practice his profession. That he has so soon been selected as City Physician of Florida's metropolis is certainly a striking recognition of his worth, and in his success the people of Tallahassee are sincerely pleased.

### Baby Morphine Fiends

are made by all soothing syrups and baby medicines that contain opium and narcotics. McGee's Baby Elixir contains no injurious or narcotic drugs of any kind. A sure and safe cure for disordered stomachs, bowels and fretfulness--splendid for teething infants. Sold by Hardie-Smith Company, drugists.

## SUMMER TRAINING SCHOOL.

Pass Resolutions on Adjournment.-- Teachers now Enjoying Vacation.

After six weeks of steady work the Summer Training School at the State College for Women has closed. A good average attendance was maintained throughout the term, but everybody seemed glad that a rest would come through the hottest part of the season.

Superintendent Holloway paid a visit to the school on Tuesday before going to Gainesville, which place he desired to reach before the session closed. He spent some days there visiting the departments of that school and conducting the State examinations.

Miss Longmire entertained most pleasantly the members of her class and the faculty of the Summer School on Thursday afternoon by exchanging "A penny for your thoughts." The flowers were very pretty and the refreshments dainty and delicious. Every one present seemed to enjoy the occasion in full.

On Friday, the closing day of the term, was the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of one of the great English poets, a delightful hour was spent in the study of "Lord Alfred Tennyson."

Miss Longmire gave an interesting talk of "The Man and His Times," in which she showed the writer to be a real poet by nature, by culture and environment. She gave a survey of the times in which Tennyson lived, showing that his life was quickened and broadened by means of the many political, social and literary reforms. She also gave a brief discussion of the distinguishing features of the poet's writings, and closed with a beautiful tribute to the "Poet of the Sea."

Dr. Conradi, in his clear, forcible style, gave an excellent discussion of "In Memoriam." He followed first the history of the poem, showed its wonderful evolution in the poet's mind, and explained the philosophical principles that pervade the entire composition.

"The Song of the Princess" was the subject of a beautiful paper by Miss Mary Reynolds. She showed the setting of these poems, discussed their beauty of form and their literary merits. Her discussion of the "Eagle Song," which "touches three worlds of surpassing beauty," was particularly fine.

After the program on Tennyson, Mr. E. W. Kennedy read the following resolutions, which show the hearty appreciation of the student for the benefits of these Training Schools for Teachers, as well as an admirable attitude toward the work of teaching:

Tallahassee, August 6, 1909. Appreciating the value of the State Summer Schools to the teaching profession, and as a promoter of the educational interests of the State, we, the student body of the Tallahassee Training School, do hereby unanimously pass the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1st, That we extend a vote of thanks to State Superintendent Holloway for his interest in the work, and especially for his determined effort to secure the appropriation for the running of the school.

2d, That a vote of thanks be extended to the Legislature for its appropriation, and especially to those members of the Legislature who contended to the last for this appropriation.

3rd, To Mrs. Yonge and Mrs. Reynolds for their thoughtful care of us during the past six weeks.

4th, That we extend a vote of thanks and appreciation to our President, Dr. Conradi, and his able faculty for the deep interest they have taken in us during the entire school. And to Mr. J. H. Kellum, the Secretary and Treasurer, for courtesies extended.

5th, To the Board of Control for the use of College buildings and grounds.

Also be it resolved, That copies of these resolutions be sent to several of the leading papers of the State for publication, and that we further show our interest in the summer school and its work by earnestly endeavoring to increase its attendance for the year 1910.

Signed by Committee on Resolutions. The members of the faculty, as well as the students, will now make the best of their vacation. Professor Williams and family have gone to Pablo Beach. Professor McMillen has joined his family at DeFuniak Springs before going back to Sutherland. Professor Fulks will have a rest at his home at Center Hill. Professor Evans and wife are visiting friends in Georgia. Dr. Calhoun has gone to Virginia, and the Carolinas. Professor Vernon returned to his home in Gainesville. Professors Hathaway, McIntosh, Sheets and Miss Longmire are yet in Tallahassee, but expect to enjoy a change of climate in the latter part of August and the first of September.

Dr. Conradi is kept very busy in adjusting matters for the opening of the College in the autumn, and is keeping up the heavy correspondence of his office, but he will endeavor to secure a rest before October.

On Monday following the close of school the examinations for State Certificates and for Primary Certificates began. These examinations were in charge of Miss Longmire and Mr. McIntosh. On Friday, August 13th, the school was closed.